

5.4.3 Planetary motion

Learning outcomes

Learners should be able to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and understanding of:

- Kepler's three laws of planetary motion
- the centripetal force on a planet is provided by the gravitational force between it and the Sun
- the equation $T^2 = \frac{4\pi^2}{GM}$
- the relationship for Kepler's third law $T^2 \propto r^3$ applied to systems other than our solar system
- geostationary orbit; uses of geostationary satellites.

Additional guidance

HSW7

Learners will also be expected to derive this equation from first principles. HSW1

HSW1, 2, 9, 10 Predicting geostationary orbit using Newtonian laws.

Lesson 4. Satellites

STARTER: Use the data to show the motion of Jupiter's moons follow Kepler's 3rd law.

HWK (due next lesson):
PPO and glossary

Moon	r/m	$T/days$
Io	4.2×10^8	1.77
Europa	6.7×10^8	3.55
Ganymede	1.1×10^9	7.2
Callisto	1.9×10^9	16.7

Kilo 10³ What is the mass of Jupiter?

Mega 10⁶ A fifth moon - Amalthea has an orbital period of 0.5 days - what is its orbital radius?

Giga 10⁹

Key point

a Plot T^2 against r^3 , which gives a straight line through the origin. (Alternatively, determine the average value of T^2/r^3 , which is $3.06 \times 10^{-16} s^2 m^{-3}$.)

b $1.9 \times 10^{27} kg$

c $1.8 \times 10^8 m$

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satellite physics

ACTIVITY: What are satellites used for? **COMMUNICATIONS**
Define a **geostationary** satellite? What are the conditions needed for the above orbit?

Kilo 10³ A geostationary satellite has a mass of 80kg - calculate its KE.

Mega 10⁶

Giga 10⁹

Geostationary Satellites

A geostationary satellite stays locked into the Earth's period of rotation so that it appears to be in the same position relative to Earth. Conditions:

- Orbital period 24 hours
- Orbits above the equator (plane equatorial). Centre of orbit must be centre of Earth
- Orbits in the same direction as the Earth rotation

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Putting a satellite in orbit

ACTIVITY: A 60kg satellite in a stable orbit suddenly loses 20kg of mass by a part slowly breaking off.

What happens to its orbital radius? **does not change -**

Kilo 10³

Mega 10⁶ Justify your answer mathematically.

Giga 10⁹

Equate centripetal force with gravitational force

Rearrange for v

$$F = \frac{mv^2}{r} = \frac{GMm}{r^2}$$

$$\frac{mv^2}{r} = \frac{GMm}{r^2}$$

$$mv^2 = \frac{GMm}{r}$$

$$v^2 = \frac{GM}{r}$$

$$\Rightarrow v = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

Since GM is a constant - a particular radius of orbit requires a particular speed.

The mass of the satellite is independent of the speed or orbital radius

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Worked example: Height of geostationary satellites

The radius of the Earth is 6370 km, and it has mass $5.97 \times 10^{24} kg$. Calculate the altitude (height above the ground) of geostationary satellites above the equator.

$T = 24hrs = 86400 S$

- Rearrange keplers 3rd law equation to make r the subject

$$r = \sqrt[3]{\frac{GMT^2}{4\pi^2}}$$

- Knowing the orbital period is 24hrs, substitute this into the equation.
- Subtract the radius of the Earth to find height.

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ACTIVITY: Worksheet

HWK (due next lesson):

Kilo 10³ Low:

Mega 10⁶

Giga 10⁹

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Plenary

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